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CONTACT BRANCH MANUAL  
HISTORY OF CONTACT BRANCH

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES (ORE)

The primary mission of the Office of Reports and Estimates (ORE) is based on Section 102 (d) (3) of the National Security Act of 1947, which authorizes CIA "to correlate and evaluate intelligence related to the national security." As CIA's evaluation and analysis office, ORE is directly responsible for implementation of this CIA mission. It therefore prepares intelligence estimates whether regional, functional, or global either on its own initiative or when requested.

ORE also fulfills CIA's obligation under NSCID No. 3 by coordinating and administering the interdepartmental program for the production of basic intelligence as National Intelligence Surveys. In addition, ORE formulates National Intelligence Objectives, in collaboration with the IAC agencies and under the guidance of the NSC staff, as prescribed in NSCID No. 4. Finally, ORE formulates requirements for the collection of intelligence information.

In order to carry out these responsibilities, the Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates is assisted by various staffs, groups and branches:

Three staff groups, the Current Intelligence Group, the Basic Intelligence Group, and the Staff Intelligence Group, have staff responsibility for the production of finished intelligence.

The Current Intelligence Group selects and presents current intelligence items of interest to the DCI, the President and the NSC. The Basic Intelligence Group administers production and maintenance of the National Intelligence Surveys, and establishes requirements for production of basic intelligence. The Staff Intelligence Group works with ORE's regional and functional components to determine the nature and scope of, and allocation of responsibility for, the production of staff intelligence. It also coordinates finished staff intelligence (including situation reports and special projects) within ORE and the IAC agencies.

The six Regional Branches (Eastern Europe/USSR, Far East/Pacific, Latin America, Near East/Africa, Northern, Western Europe) are the basic producing units of ORE and are responsible for the production and presentation of national intelligence reports and estimates within their geographic areas, and for the review of basic information for the National Intelligence Surveys. With the exception of those matters

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which clearly cut across, and are common to the interests of two or more Branches, the Regional Branches have final responsibility for finished intelligence. (The subjects of international civil air transportation, transoceanic shipping and international organizations are specific cases where final responsibility lies with the functional consultants instead of any one or more Regional Branches.) The Regional Branches also prepare requirements for intelligence collection.

The Map Branch furnishes cartographic and textual interpretations of intelligence data, compiles and constructs specialized maps to accompany intelligence reports, and prepares standard map bases and map intelligence for the National Intelligence Surveys. It coordinates the requirements of the U.S. Government agencies for foreign maps and map intelligence, and initiates procurement through the Department of State and Foreign Service channels. It maintains a current collection of intelligence maps and related materials. The Map Branch represents CIA on the U.S. Board of Geographic Names, the Joint Map and Photo Committee of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the geographical committees of the Research and Development Board.

The Functional Consultants have been grouped (for administrative convenience) into:

- The Economics Group
- The Transportation Group
- The International Organizations Group

These groups provide expert consultant services to, and review reports and estimates produced by, the basic producing units of ORE. They also produce national intelligence estimates on a basis of functional intelligence within their respective fields.

There is also a Global Survey Group responsible for viewing the situation in its broader aspects (without limitation by regional or functional specialization) and for producing estimates with respect to those situations which require a synthesis of findings from a more restricted point of view.

The Plans and Policy Staff comprises a Requirements Division, a Programs Division and an Analysis Division. The Requirements Division processes and reviews intelligence requirements, then coordinates and consolidates them for adequacy, accuracy and timeliness. This Division acts on all Contact Branch requests for requirements for specific travelers, and coordinates the requirements with the other IAC agencies, through OCD. The Programs Division in conjunction with producers and users of intelligence plans, adjusts and reviews a coordinated program for national intelligence production. The Analysis Division conducts continuing reviews and analyses of ORE operations to assist in the fulfillment of the ORE mission.

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